





# Curios and Relics Architectural Features Inscribed Window Glass Princeton

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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## Author of Lincoln Inscription Still a Mystery at Princeton

Wrote "We Mourn Our Loss," in Window Pane Of  
Nassau Hall on Day on Which Princeton  
Held Memorial Service for Lincoln

PRINCETON, Feb. 11.—If any one has any information concerning a George H. Stone, of the post-Civil War era, local historians would like to receive it. Mr. Stone is thought to be the author of the inscription on the Nassau Hall window-pane which has borne mute testimony for nearly three-quarters of a century to the sorrow pervading Princeton upon receipt of the news of Abraham Lincoln's death.

Inscribed in flowing letters upon the pane, apparently with a diamond ring, is the sentiment, "We Mourn Our Loss," followed by the date, "Apr 19th 65," which was the day Princeton held a service in memory of the assassinated President. On the pane below, en-

graved apparently by the same hand, is the name "George H. Stone" and the date "Apr 19th 65."

College archives contain no trace of Mr. Stone and students of Princeton history would like to know who he is. One theory is that he was visiting William Henry Grant, '65, of Trenton, who occupied the Nassau Hall room where the window is, in 1865. Mr. Grant's name and class are carved in the top of the wood sash, holding the inscribed pane, and further confirmation of his tenancy of the room is provided by college directories of the time. Mr. Grant died about 25 years ago. In fact, the class of 1865 has but a single survivor today, Dr. William H. Vail, of Newark, the second oldest living Princeton alumnus.

The room is now part of the office of the secretary of the university. It is on the third floor, on the front and near the middle of the building. The historic pane, which measures 12 by 13 inches, is the upper left-hand one in the top sash which contains four panes of equal size. Wire screens have been placed inside and outside of the pane to safeguard it.

The memorial service for Lincoln was held in the old Presbyterian Church. At it Dr. John MacLean, president of the college, read a letter of appreciation written by Lincoln in acknowledging the honorary degree of doctor of laws which Princeton had conferred upon him three months earlier.

In the letter, which is preserved in the university library, Lincoln wrote: "I am most thankful if my labors have seemed to conduce to the preservation of those institutions under which alone we can expect good government, and in its train sound learning and the progress of the liberal arts."

